

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9-13, 16, 17 and 19-21 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

utilizing a bearer independent protocol between a server and user equipment in a transmission of a messaging service message from a sender in a first system having a first structure for messages to a receiver of a second system having a second structure for the messages, wherein said bearer independent protocol ~~being~~is above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the message having the first structure in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;

converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol;;
and

transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment using the bearer independent protocol.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting the message from the sender's equipment to the receiver's equipment using the bearer independent protocol.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

~~if the message transmission to the receiver's equipment fails,~~ converting the message to have the second structure when the message transmission to the receiver's equipment fails; and

transmitting the message to the receiver's equipment in the second structure.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the message sent from the sender's equipment according to the bearer independent protocol and having a bearer independent protocol structure in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;

converting the received message from the bearer independent protocol structure to the second structure; and

transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the message having the bearer independent protocol structure in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;
converting the message to have the second structure; and
transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

~~if the message transmission of the converted message fails,~~ converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol when the message transmission of the converted message fails; and

transmitting the message from the server to the receiver's equipment according to the bearer independent protocol.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the transmission of the message having a structure of the converted bearer independent protocol comprises:

storing the content of the message;

sending an address of the content to the receiver's equipment; and

reading the content by using the address.

9. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
a first system having a first structure for messaging service messages;
a second system having a second structure for the messages; and
a server via which a message is transmitted from the first system to the second system, wherein
the server ~~beingis~~ configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in the transmission of the message from the first system to the second system, and
said bearer independent protocol being above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.

10. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 9, wherein the first system comprises a network node having functionality related to messaging services within the first system, wherein the network node ~~beingis~~ configured to recognize the message sent to the second system and to forward the message to the server.

11. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 9, wherein the first system comprises at least user equipment that comprises a sender application using the bearer independent protocol ~~for~~to sending messages according to the bearer independent protocol, wherein the user equipment ~~beingis~~ configured to start the sender application in response to the message targeted to the second system.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~A ~~system according to claim 9, comprising:~~
a first system having a first structure for messaging service messages;
a second system having a second structure for the messages; and
a server via which a message is transmitted from the first system to the second
system, wherein
the server is configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in the transmission
of the message from the first system to the second system,
said bearer independent protocol being above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack,
~~wherein~~ the system comprises another server configured to utilize a bearer
independent protocol ~~for~~to transmitting the message, wherein one of the servers ~~being~~is a
first server via which the message is transmitted from a sender in the first system to the
second system and the other ~~one being~~server is a second server via which the message is
transmitted from the first system towards a receiver in the second system,
the first server is configured, in response to receiving the message having the first
structure, to convert the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent
protocol, and to send the converted message to the second server, and
the second server is configured, in response to receiving the message having a
structure according to the bearer independent protocol, to convert the message to have the
second structure before forwarding the message to the receiver.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a processor configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in ~~the~~
transmission of a message from a first system having a first structure for messaging
service messages to a second system having a second structure for the messages, wherein
said bearer independent protocol ~~being~~is above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the
processor is configured, in response to receiving the message having the first structure, to
convert the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent protocol
before forwarding the message.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the
processor is configured, in response to receiving a message having a structure according
to the bearer independent protocol, to convert the message to have the second structure
before forwarding the message.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, further
comprising:

~~if the message transmission to the receiver's equipment fails,~~ converting the
message to have the second structure when the message transmission to the receiver's
equipment fails; and

transmitting the message to the receiver's equipment in the second structure.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:

~~if the message transmission of the converted message fails,~~ converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol when the message transmission of the converted message fails; and

transmitting the message from the server to the receiver's equipment according to the bearer independent protocol.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the transmission of the message having a structure of the bearer independent protocol includes:

storing the content of the message;

sending an address of the content to the receiver's equipment; and

reading the content by using the address.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

utilizing means configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in a transmission of a message between a sender of the message and a receiver of the message, wherein

said bearer independent protocol beingis above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack, and

the apparatus beingis used for transmitting a messaging service message from the sender in a first system having a first structure for messages to the receiver of a second system having a second structure for the messages.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

converting means, ~~configured to be responsive to the apparatus receiving a message having the first structure, tofor converting the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, and tofor sending the converted message to the second system.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

converting means, ~~configured to be responsive to the apparatus receiving a message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, tofor converting the message to have the second structure, and tofor forwarding the converted message to the second system.~~